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SAPC 22703
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20 December 1957

MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy Project Director

SUBJECT: Proposal Study A3J-1 Navy Reconnaissance Aircraft

1. This proposal is typical of many of the aircraft types I have reviewed during my assignment under the Deputy Chief of Staff, Development, Headquarters, USAF. Essentially, it results in an effort to extend the developments presently achieved a few more years. Usually, the bureaucratic approach (long lead time) results in the production of an obsolete or an inadequate aircraft.
2. Basically, the trap this and other studies of this kind fall into is to attempt to build one aircraft system that does everything. This results in compromising one system for another. For example, if this aircraft is designed to carry a store (A or H bomb), the structure must be beefed up (i.e., wheels, struts and wing structure, etc.) to such a degree that excess (to the reconnaissance mission) structural weight would be added that would substantially reduce the capability of the aircraft to perform a satisfactory reconnaissance mission. In addition, control boxes, electrical control cables, etc., would be carried on all missions. Although the study mentions removable reconnaissance control and sync cable, it does not mention removable bomb system control or sync cables. There are always many basic items that would have to be carried at all times that are not mentioned that would not contribute to that particular mission and thereby additionally reduce the aircraft performance.
3. The parameters as outlined within this study do not provide us with a capability beyond that which we presently have. It is obvious that by the time it would come off the production line, even though it were produced through direct procurement, it would be obsolete.
4. It is my opinion, that unless an objective approach to the aircraft system design is adapted (such as the approach used in acquiring the U-2 system) the United States will never be capable of maintaining the operational

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superiority in the reconnaissance field. The Research and Development approach appears to be the only way we can cut the bureaucratic procurement lead time. Utilizing the R & D equipment operationally on combat missions after a minimum time for testing, and assuming the calculated risks of equipment breakdowns, as we are presently doing, is in my estimation the only other approach that we could employ to cut the operational readiness lead time.

P. E. L.

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Director of Operations

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